

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT OECD PARIS 1556 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TOKYO
STOCKHOLM LUXEMBOURG MADRID BERN CANBERRA OTTAWA CARACAS EC
BRUSSELS MTN GENEVA 16 JAN

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 01556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: CIEC: CANADIAN PERMREP'S BRIEFING TO G-8
ON G-19 CAUCUS

REF: ECD PARIS 1392

1. CANADIAN PERMREP MACLEAN BRIEFED G-8 PERMREPS AT
START OF JAN. 16 MEETING ON G-19 CONFERENCE. CANADIAN
INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY VENEZUELAN. MACLEAN MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. THE BUSINESS-LIKE TONE OF THE GA19 MEETING CONTINUED.
THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE NINETEEN WERE SEARCHING
FOR A DRAMATIC CONFRONTATION ON JAN. 26. THE VENEZUELAN
INDICATED THAT WHILE MEMBERS OF THE NINETEEN SEE HARD PRO-
BLEMS AHEAD, THEY WANT TO FACILITATE THE ORDERLY TACKLING
OF THESE PROBLEMS AND TO AVOID POLEMICS. THE G-19 CON-
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ERENCE SPENT NEARLY ALL ITS TIME DEVELOPING THE LIST OF

TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSIONS. THE G-19 EXPECT THAT THIS LIST WILL AT LEAST BE LOOKED AT ON JAN. 26 AND STRONGLY HOPE THAT THE EIGHT WILL LOOK SERIOUSLY AT IT AND EXPRESS SOME VIEWS. THE CANADIANS HAD REITERATED THE POSITION THAT ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THE LIST WERE UNLIKELY ON JAN. 26. WHILE THEY WOULD NOT RULE OUT SOME EXPRESSION OF G-8 VIEWS, THEY WOULD NOT REALLY EXPECT THE MEETING TO DO MORE THAN NOTE THE LIST AND TO PASS IT ON. CANADIANS HAD CLEARLY TAKEN POSITION THAT THESE ARE MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSIONS. MACLEAN THEN COMMENTED THAT PEOPLE IN G-8 CAPITALS MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER THIS ISSUE AND TO DECIDE WHETHER THERE IS ANY NEED TO GO BEYOND THE POSITION WHICH CANADIANS HAVE ALREADY ARTICULATED. THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE PERMREPS HERE TO TACKLE THIS ISSUE NOW.

3. DURING THE LAST DAY OF THE G-19 SESSION A DISCUSSION OF THE LENGTH AND DURATION OF COMMISSION SESSIONS WAS HELD. MACLEAN RECALLED TO US THAT THE CANADIANS HAD EARLIER PRESSED ON PEREZ-GUERRERO THE ADVANTAGES OF SHORT, WELL-SPACE COMMISSION MEETINGS AND HAD SUGGESTED THE IDEA OF FIVE-WEEK CYCLES (COMMISSIONS MEETING CONSECUTIVELY ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR WEEKS, WITH THE FIFTH WEEK FOR A PAUSE). PEREZ-GUARRERO HAD RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT CONVINCED OF THIS APPROACH. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE G-19 CONFERENCE HAD IN FACT AGREED THAT MUCH LONGER MEETINGS SHOULD BE URGED. MACLEAN THEN SPELLED OUT A FORMULATION CLOSE TO THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL. MACLEAN SAID THE G-19 SAW COMMISSION BEGINNING MEETING ON FEB. 11, MEETING CONTINUOUSLY UNTIL MARCH 6, AND THEN RESUMING MARCH 22 UNTIL APRIL 10. THERE WOULD THEN BE ANOTHER PAUSE ENCOMPASSING A RECESS AND THE DURATION OF UNCTAD IV. THE COMMISSIONS WOULD RESUME AGAIN ABOUT JUNE 1 FOR FOUR OR FIVE WEEKS TOWARD THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. THE VENEZUELANS PRESENTED THIS SCHEDULE AS A COMPROMISE ARRIVED AT AMONG THE NINETEEN, SOME OF WHICH URGED EVEN LONGER MEETINGS. THE NINETEEN EXPECT THE COMMISSIONS TO MEET CONCURRENTLY, PERHAPS WITH TWO COMMISSIONS MEETING EACH MORNING AND THE OTHER TWO IN THE AFTERNOON. MACLEAN COMMENTED THAT THE NINETEEN ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE CONCEPT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCURRENT MEETINGS DURING THE FIRST SESSION BUT THEY ALSO WANTED THIS PROCEDURE TO BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

4. ON BACKSTOPPING ARRANGEMENTS AMONG THE NINETEEN THERE WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE THAT A SMALL SECRETARIAT BE ESTABLISHED IN PARIS AND THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO DISSENT FROM THIS IDEA, BUT ALL THE DETAILS OF HOW SUCH A SECRET-

ARIAT WOULD OPERATE REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT.

5. THE G-19 WILL MEET AGAIN FEB. 9 AND 10 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF PEREZ-GUERRERO. AT THIS MEETING THEY WILL, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CLARIFY THEIR INTERNAL PROCEDURES FOR CAUCUSING.

6. MACLEAN TOLD THE EIGHT THAT THE G-19 HOPE AND EXPECT THAT A G-8 LIST WILL BE PRESENTED. THE NINETEEN WERE GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT IN THIS REGARD. THE CANADIANS TOLD THEM THAT THIS ISSUE WAS NOT CLEAR AND THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AT ALL ON THE MATTER. MACLEAN COMMENTED THAT THE EIGHT HAVE BEEN PUT ON NOTICE ABOUT THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE NINETEEN. HE ADDED THAT OFFICIALS IN CAPITALS WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO REFLECT ON THIS G-19 EXPECTATION BETWEEN NOW AND JAN 24 G-8 MEETING AND CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT THERE SHOULD BE SOME RESPONSE TO IT.

7. IN ADDITION TO POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF THE G-19 LIST (PARA 2 ABOVE) AND OF ANYTHING THE G-8 MIGHT PUT FORWARD (PARA 6 ABOVE), THE NINETEEN THINK OTHER SUBJECTS FOR THE JAN 26 MEETING WOULD INCLUDE TIMETABLES FOR THE COMMISSION MEETINGS, SIZE OF DELEGATIONS, AND QUESTION OF OBSERVERS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE 19 ALSO ENVISAGE SOME DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET. MACLEAN SAID THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE 19 PLANNED TO TURN THE CO-CHAIRMEN INTO A PRE-MEETING OF THE FINANCE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE BUT THE NINETEEN NOTE THAT SOME QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE LENGTH OF COMMISSION MEETINGS WILL HAVE BUDGETARY CONSEQUENCES.

8. MACLEAN CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT PEREZ-GUERRERO HAD
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NOW GONE BACK HOME AND WOULD NOT RETURN UNTIL AFTERNOON OF JAN 25. WHILE ONE MEMBER OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND, HE WOULD BE ABLE ONLY TO DEAL WITH DETAILS WHERE AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REACHED WITH PEREZ-GUERRERO, WHO IS KEEPING ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES IN HIS OWN HANDS. IN SHORT, THE CANADIANS DID NOT BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PURSUE MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE DURING THE COMING WEEK.
KATZ UNQUOTE SISCO

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